

**Insanity and Allied Neuroses.** By GEO. H. SAVAGE, M.D.,  
M.R.C.P. Philadelphia : H. C. Lea's Son & Co., 1884.

"What I want is facts," is the declaration of M. Grandgrind, a type of the British philistine, and of the Grandgrind type is the author of this book. The author grandiloquently remarks in his preface : "To those who have been engaged for years in the culture of any branch of science, and in the imparting of its data to others, there naturally comes a time when the facts, and the apparent relations between them, seem to demand some permanent registration. One has, as it were, to take stock of one's facts and see what has been learnt. I have for some time felt that my period of observation without registration must terminate, and that I owe it to my position as physician to a large hospital, to give the younger members of my profession the results of my more than twelve years' experience in Bethlem,"—and this is the *raison d'être* of the present work.

In the opening chapter there is shown the same tendency to the sensational which disfigures so many British works. The author states that : "No man is perfectly sane in all his mental faculties any more than he is perfectly healthy in body." The author attempts to avoid by this paradox any criticism on his definitions on sanity and insanity. His demarcation and distinction of eccentricity from insanity is not at all lucid. Isaac Ray, not to speak of others, had clearly pointed out that there were two great types of "eccentric" people. One so clear-minded and well-balanced as to be a law unto society rather than *vice versa*, and the other, whose mental defects were visible in every act ; but of such a distinction Dr. Savage seems totally unaware, and here is to be found one defect of the work as a manual for students. Had Dr. Savage a little less tendency to the mere registration of what he calls fact, and greater power of analysis, he would have perceived the relationship his so-called eccentric bore to the paranoiacs. The dilettantism of the Grandgrind school of alienists comes out strongly in the remarks on genius and crime in relation to insanity, although the author's experience prevents him from being utterly puerile. The classification of the author is modified on, but sadly degenerated from, the ideas of Morel as enunciated by Skae: The author's experience, even veiled as it is in the mass of words forming this chapter, tends to justify the broad principle of classification which is slowly being adopted in this country, and is already dominant in continental European psychiatry, namely : that there are pure psychoses and complicating psychoses, but of this he himself is unconscious. The author leans to the view, unconsciously it would seem, that paretic dementia is a psychical manifestation of a brain disease. The egotism of the author and his estimation of his classification may be judged from the following language : "My division of insanity being provisional, and in no way pretending to be final, will be found more useful than elaborate new plans which would entail labor to the student to master, and which will in the end have to

be thrown aside." Considering that the classification is largely hypothetical and somewhat inconsistent, this language is rather hyperbolic. The author, for whom psychical phenomena must be well demonstrated to be accepted, says: "Perversion of the moral nature may be so great as to justify the use of the term moral insanity." The chapter on causation contains nothing new nor newly put. The remarks on heredity are, however, much more judicial than might have been expected from the philistinish tendencies of the author, and the same might may be said of the remarks on masturbation, alcohol, and religion. In his discussion of acute delirious mania, he confuses the confusional insanities of exhaustion, Bell's disease, and transitory frenzy in one disease. The remarks on the pathology of mania sound strange in the light of American and Continental researches. Under hypochondriasis the author confuses very different conditions. Under melancholia he confuses stuporous insanity, katatonia, phthisical insanity, and many diverse types with persecutorial delusions. The author entertains views as to the responsibility of the insane unjustifiable from the standpoint of abstract justice. To the alienist the book is of some value. To the general practitioner and medical student it is a very deceptive guide on account of its plausible simplicity.

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**The Adjudged Cases on Insanity as a Defence to Crime.** By JOHN D. LAWSON, St. Louis. T. H. Thomas & Co., 1884.

This work has for motto the following citation from (*Cunningham v. State*, 56 Miss., 269) a judge's charge: "There is perhaps no subject connected with the common law upon which the authorities are more hopelessly in conflict than this." To a work of the kind projected by Mr. Lawson this motto is eminently appropriate, since, as he says, its object is to present in a single volume all the reported cases where insanity has been set up as defence of a criminal charge, and has been passed upon by a court of justice in America or Great Britain, and these cases illustrate very decidedly that the proverb about doctors disagreeing was more applicable to doctors of law than to doctors of medicine.

The first chapter is devoted to tests of insanity, and the legal tests of insanity advanced are as follows: The first test is the child-test enunciated by Lord Hale: "Such a person as, laboring under melancholy distempers, hath yet ordinarily as great understanding as ordinarily a child of fourteen years hath, is such a person as may be guilty of treason or felony." Chief-Judge Tracy a little later enunciated the dictum that: "Such a madman as is to be exempted from punishment . . . must be a man that is totally deprived of his understanding and memory, and doth not know what he is doing no more than an infant, a brute, or a wild beast." The test of knowledge of right or wrong in the abstract was first enunciated by Judge Mansfield on the trial of Bellingham,